DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 353 852 FL 800 420

TITLE Fort Berthold Library Literacy Program. Final Performance Report, October 1, 1988-September 30, 1989.

INSTITUTION Fort Berthold Reservation Public Library, New Town, ND.

SPONS AGENCY Office of Educational Research and Improvement (ED), Washington, DC. Center for Libraries and Education Improvement.

PUB DATE [92]

CONTRACT R167A80305

NOTE 10p.

PUB TYPE Reports - Evaluative/Feasibility (142)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.

DESCRIPTORS Adult Basic Education; Advertising; *American Indians; *Cultural Awareness; Essays; *Library Acquisition; Library Circulation; Library Instruction; *Library Services; *Literacy Education; Outreach Programs; Program Evaluation; Public Relations; *Tutorial Programs; Volunteers; Volunteer Training

IDENTIFIERS Arikara (Tribe); *Fort Berthold Indian Reservation; Hidatsa (Tribe); Mandan (Tribe); Native Americans

ABSTRACT

The report describes activities of the Fort Berthold Reservation Public Library (North Dakota) Literacy Program to meet six objectives for the 1988-89 project year. The program was designed specifically to promote literacy among three Native American tribes, the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara. Objectives included acquisition of a library literacy coordinator, development of an essay collection with cultural relevance to the three tribes, acquisition of traditional literacy materials, promotion of literacy services, and volunteer tutor training. The essay collection developed for the library was compiled from materials submitted by students in a local community college Native American literature program, biographies written by a literacy tutor, and the program's coordinator. The collection focused on five cultural aspects of the tribes: ancestors; contemporary stories; historic places and events; traditions; and traditional foods. It is reported that creation of the essay collection resulted in increased use of other library services. Promotion of the literacy program was achieved through local radio, newspapers, local service programs, television programs, activities of a designated state literacy day, and distribution of literacy materials by mail. All stated program goals and objectives were met. (MSE) (Adjunct ERIC Clearinghouse on Literacy Education)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED353852

LIBRARY SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION ACT
TITLE VI
LIBRARY LITERACY PROGRAM

Fort Berthold Library Literacy Program. Final Performance Report, October 1, 1988 - September 30, 1989.

THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES
FORT BERTHOLD RESERVATION
FORT BERTHOLD COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FORT BERTHOLD RESERVATION PUBLIC LIBRARY
P.O. BOX 788
NEW TOWN, NORTH DAKOTA 58763

PR/AWARD NO. R167A80305

FL 800420

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
X This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The following report describes the activities conducted to meet the goals and objectives of the Fort Berthold Library Literacy Program for the 1988-89 project year. The report includes activity revisions which were necessary for new staff to accomplish the objectives proposed for the program year.

TASK 1.0: Library Literacy Coordinator

A personnel turnover occurred early in the grant year. The former Literacy Coordinator, Danile J. Henry sustained an injury which incapacitated her from work at the beginning of the program year. She resigned as the Literacy Coordinator on December 21, 1988. The position was filled on February 20, 1989 by Amy Henry, an enrolled Tribal member. Amy Henry graduated with Associate of Art degrees in Business Administration/ Accounting and Environmental Science. Ms. Henry was employed for ten years in Tribal program administration and had extensive experience in contract/grant administration. She also worked closely with various State, Tribal and local agencies as well as the general public throughout the reservation. The new Literacy Coordinator made minor changes in activities and scheduling. Even with the loss of project time, the objectives of this year's grant were eventually met.

TASK 1.1: ESSAY COLLECTION

The Fort Berthold Reservation Public Library has accumulated a vast collection of culturally relevant materials pertaining to

the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Tribes as well as other Tribes across the nation. The majority of these materials are written at a level that is beyond the comprehension of most adult new readers and young children.

One major objective for the grant year included the compilation of a cultural essay collection relevant to the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara people of the Fort Berthold Reservation. The collection focused on providing appropriate materials that stimulated the interest of the service population and motivated them to learn more about their culture through reading. The essay collection resulted in an increase in the utilization of other Library services (Literacy Tutoring, Books-by-Mail.) This occurred as new adult readers familiarized themselves with the Library, improved their reading skills and graduated to higher levels of reading.

The proposed activities included the recruitment of volunteers who would participate in the actual writing of the essays after attending a writer's workshop. Although there was no response for volunteer writers, a number of essays and poems were submitted for use by the Native American Literature students of the Fort Berthold Community College. Some of the materials, which were based on local interest topics, were used in the essay project. The essay collection also included several biographies compiled by Michael Stevens, a former Literacy Aide and trained literacy tutor. Because of time constraints and the lack of volunteer writers, the majority of the collection was

composed by the Literacy Coordinator.

The essay collection is classified into five cultural aspects of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara tribes. The five categories include Ancestors; Contemporary Stories; Historic Places and Events; Traditions; and Traditional Foods. The Literacy Coordinator obtained information for the essays from the Fort Berthold Reservation Public Library, the North Dakota Historical Society, Knife River Indian Villages, and from Tribal elders. A number of Tribal elders were retained as consultants because of their expert knowledge in certain topics relating specifically to the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara tribes. The essays were then analyzed for readability through the use of appropriate computer software. Two individuals were hired in the final phase of the essay collection. The Word Processor and the Illustrator assisted in the layout and printing preparation of the culturally relevant essay collection.

TASK 1.2: MATERIAL ACQUISITION

The Literacy Coordinator and the Fort Berthold Reservation Public Librarian discussed the acquisition of the various types of traditional materials that were added to the present Literacy Collection at the Library. The Literacy Coordinator reviewed the extensive Literacy collection at the Minot Public Library and also received additional expert advice on the subject from the Coordinator of the Adult Learning Center in Minot as well as the Coordinator of the Statewide Adult Ed Resource Center in

Bismarck. The final selection included two reading/spelling video programs (levels 1 & 2), two word problem computer programs (levels 1 & 2), five survival skills workbooks with accompanying audio-cassettes, six "Laying the Foundations" parent-child literacy training kits, two newsletter subscriptions for administrative use, one weekly news subscription for adult new readers, three promotional literacy video programs, 21 study guides/activity books, 22 training manuals and guides (Literacy Volunteers of America), and 154 new fiction and non-fiction titles.

TASK 1.4: PROMOTION

The Literacy Coordinator utilized all local media in promoting the availability of literacy services on Fort Berthold. The local FM radio station, KMHA, aired literacy volunteer tutor and student recruitment as well as public service announcements four to six times daily from 7:00 a.m. through midnight. The local weekly newspapers, THE NEW TOWN NEWS and THE MANDAN, HIDATSA, ARIKARA TIMES, were also utilized to promote literacy services and publicize program accomplishments. The Literacy Coordinator designed a brochure which was distributed reservation wide. All service oriented programs on Fort Berthold were contacted by the Literacy Coordinator to establish a referral system for people needing or desiring tutoring services. The agencies that were contacted provide services to the Fort Berthold Reservation and eligible near-reservation population.

The majority of the agencies have central headquarters based in New Town, North Dakota and provide services through satellite offices in the outlying districts. They include the Adult Basic Education Program, Fort Berthold Community College; Tribal Social Services Department (Tribal Work Experience Program, General Assistance, and the Child Welfare Program), Tribal Food Service Programs (Women, Infants and Children-WIC Program, Commodity Program, and Tribal Nutrition); Employment Assistance Readiness Net (EARN) Program; Tribal Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) Program; Job Service North Dakota; Bureau of Indian (BIA) Law Enforcement; North Dakota Legal Services, Indian Health Service; Community Health Program; and the Circle of Life Resource Center.

The Literacy Director received television programming information from the Contact Literacy Center, a national clearinghouse for the Coalition for Literacy and Project Literacy U.S. (PLUS) based in Washington D.C., and followed up by publicizing two literacy related after-school television specials, "Daddy Can't Read" and "Making the Grade". Announcements were publicized through the grade school newsletter and the local FM radio station, KMHA.

September 8, 1989 was designated as Literacy Day in North Dakota. Statewide activities were scheduled in observance of the estimated 55,000 functionally illiterate adults in the State. The Fort Berthold Literacy Program presented three literacy related video programs and scheduled other activities to increase public awareness and participation in the Literacy Day events.

To further promote the use of the library and the literacy program, a collection of literacy materials was selected for distribution through a Books-by-Mail catalog. The catalog, which contains approximately 35 literacy titles as well as a description of the availability of literacy tutoring services, was mailed at bulk-rate to 4,000 reservation residents. The culturally relevant essay collection is also included in the catalog. The Books-by-Mail services are delivered at no charge to interested patrons.

TASK 1.5: VOLUNTEER TUTOR TRAINING

The Literacy Coordinator received tutor training from Barb Korpi, Coordinator of the Statewide Adult Education Resource Center in Bismarck. Ms. Korpi facilitates the 16-hour Basic Reading Tutor Training Workshops throughout North Dakota. The Literacy Coordinator recruited volunteer tutors through a reservation-wide campaign. A total of 14 volunteers were recruited during a three-month period. All but three completed the Basic Reading Tutor Training Workshop. Five of the trained tutors attended the North Dakota Education Association Conference in Bismarck on September 21 - 22, 1989.

After the initial group of volunteers completed training, an extensive campaign was conducted to publicize the availability of trained tutors and to recruit students for the program. Students were referred for tutoring services from the Employment Assistance Readiness Net (EARN) Curriculum Developer, the Fort

Berthold Community College Adult Basic Education Director and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Law Enforcement Agency. At the end of the grant year, the program was providing services to one adult in Twin Buttes, two adults in Mandaree, two adult students and one young student in New Town. Literacy materials utilized included the Literacy Volunteers of American (LVA) READ Test and TUTOR Manual, Lakeshore Lifeskills Workbook Series, Life-Coping Skills Worktext Series, Competency/Enrichment Adult Reading Collection, Family Development Workbook Series, Follet Career Guidance and Coping Skills Series. Rand McNally Road Atlas, North Dakota Driver's Class III License Manual. educational and promotional video and audio-cassette programs, and fiction and non-fiction titles.

SUMMARY

The Fort Berthold Library Literacy Project was able to meet its goals and objectives proposed for the grant year. By the end of the program year, the reservation population was aware of the scope of illiteracy on the national, state and local level. They were well informed of the services available to them on Fort Berthold and how they could access those services. Social Services Agencies referred individuals for tutoring and other prospective students sought assistance and information on their own initiative.

The newly created essay collection based on the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara people of the Fort Berthold Reservation will

motive people, young and old, to read more and will continue to attract patrons. The materials will be used by future literacy tutors as a tool for stimulating their students interest and desire to read.